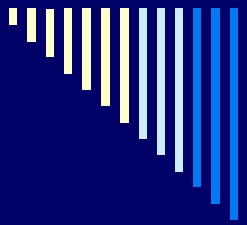


# **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

## **and Vulnerable Populations**

***Presentation at the* North Carolina Commission on  
Volunteerism and Community Service  
AMERICORPS LAUNCH**

November 6, 2008  
Winston-Salem, NC



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

## PLANNING FOR DISASTER:

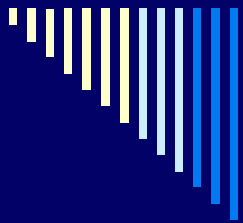
What is the  
difference between



an **EMERGENCY**

and a **DISASTER?**





# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

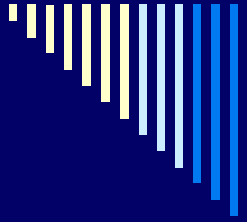
From Wikipedia –

- An **EMERGENCY** is a situation which poses an *immediate risk* to health, life, property or environment.

Most emergencies require urgent intervention to prevent a worsening of the situation, although in some situations, mitigation may not be possible and agencies may only be able to offer palliative care for the aftermath. The precise definition of an emergency, the agencies involved and the procedures used, vary by jurisdiction, and this is usually set by the government, whose agencies (emergency services) are responsible for emergency planning and management.

- A **DISASTER** is the impact of a natural or human-made hazard that negatively affects society or environment.

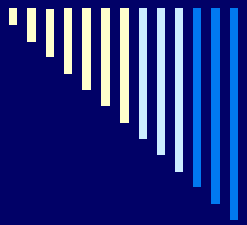
In contemporary academia, disasters are seen as the consequence of inappropriately managed risk. These risks are the product of hazards and vulnerability. Hazards that strike in areas with low vulnerability are not considered a disaster, as is the case in uninhabited regions. A disaster can be defined as any tragic event that involves at least one victim of circumstance, such as an accident, fire, terrorist attack, or explosion.



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

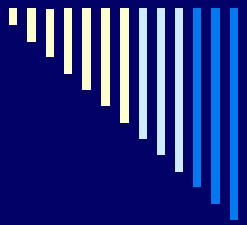
## ➤ Who are Vulnerable Populations?





# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

- **Who are Vulnerable Populations?**
1. Physical Disabilities
  2. Cognitive Disabilities
  3. Medically Dependent, Medically Compromised
  4. Blind
  5. Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing
  6. Seniors
  7. Children
  8. Non-English or Limited English Proficiency
  9. Homeless and Shelter Dependent
  10. Undocumented Persons



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

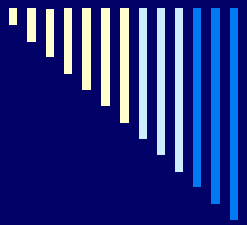
## ➤ What makes this group vulnerable ?

### 1. Physical Disabilities –

#### Range includes:

Completely independent individuals with a major disability; those using assistive devices that require assistance; those requiring prescription or restricted medications or specialized equipment; those requiring full-time attendant care for feeding, toileting, personal care, etc.





# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

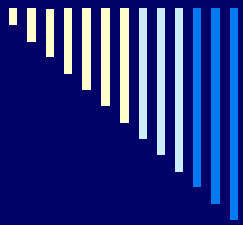
## ➤ What makes this group vulnerable?

### 2. Cognitive Disabilities –



#### Range includes:

Those unable to safely survive independently,  
those unable to attend to personal care, etc.;  
those that are a danger to themselves or others;  
this also includes mental illnesses and many  
developmental disabilities



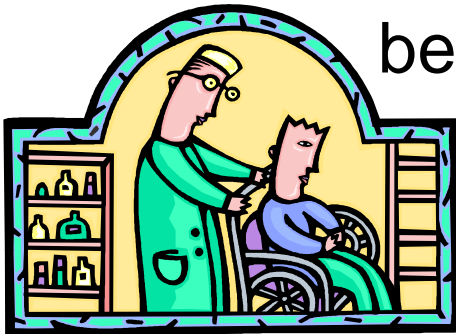
# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

## ➤ What makes this group vulnerable?

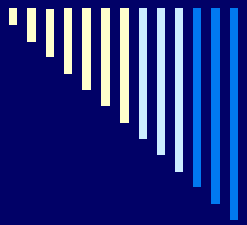
### 3. Medically Dependent/Compromised –

#### Range includes:

Dependency on medications to sustain life or control conditions for quality of life – diabetic, weakened immune systems, those who cannot be in/use public accommodations







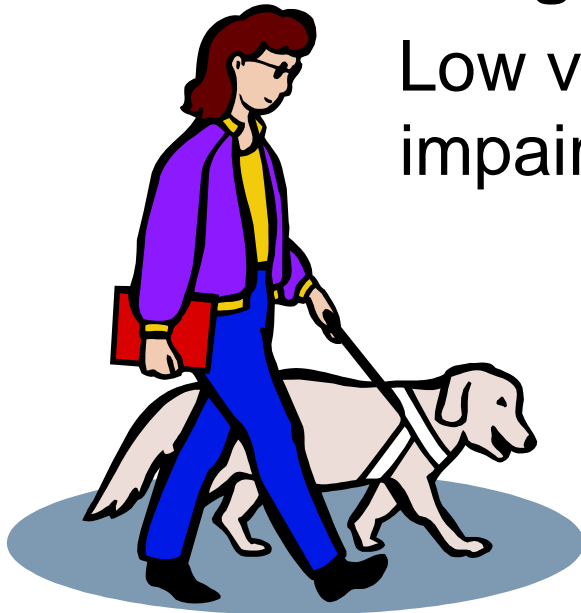
# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

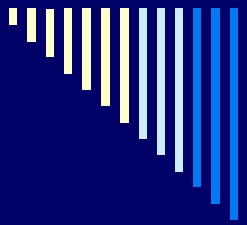
## ➤ What makes this group vulnerable?

### 4. Blind –

**Range includes:**

Low vision, night blindness, color blindness,  
impaired depth perception





# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

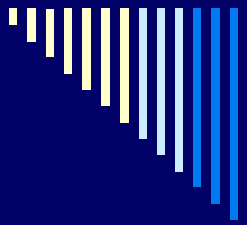
## ➤ What makes this group vulnerable?

### 5. Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing –

**Range includes:**

Latent Deaf, situational loss of hearing, limited-range hearing





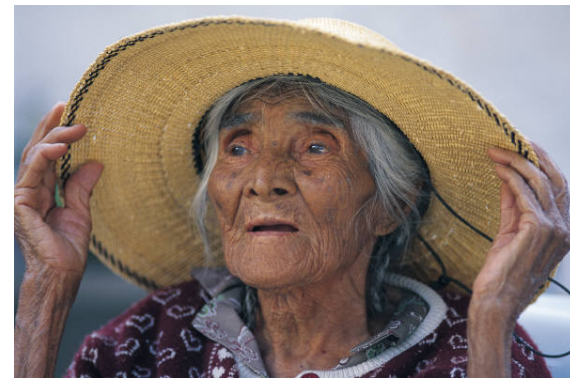
# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

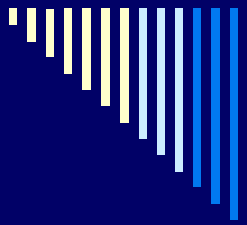
## ➤ What makes this group vulnerable?

### 6. Seniors –

**Range includes:**

Frail elderly, people who have age-related limitations/needs





# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

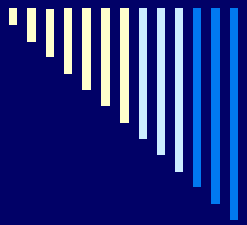
## ➤ What makes this group vulnerable?

### 7. Children –



#### Range includes:

Anyone below legal adult age (dependent on state law) separated from parents/guardians – day cares, Head Start, before/after-school programs, latch-key kids



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

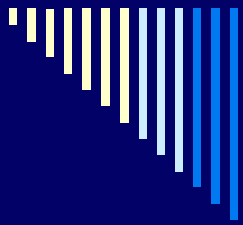
## ➤ What makes this group vulnerable?

### 8. Non-English or Limited English Proficiency –



#### Range includes:

Persons with limited ability to speak, read, write, or fully understand English (Deaf?)



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

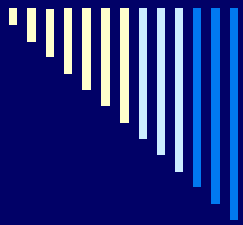
## ➤ What makes this group vulnerable?

### 9. Homeless and Shelter Dependent –

#### Range includes:

Persons in shelters, on streets or temporarily housed – transitional, safe houses for women and minors





# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

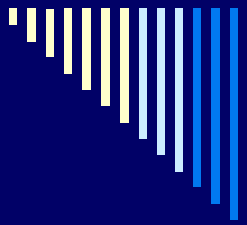
## ➤ What makes this group vulnerable?

### 10. Undocumented Persons –

#### **Range includes:**

Persons distrusting authorities, political dissidents and others who will not use government or other traditional service providers – i.e., American Red Cross

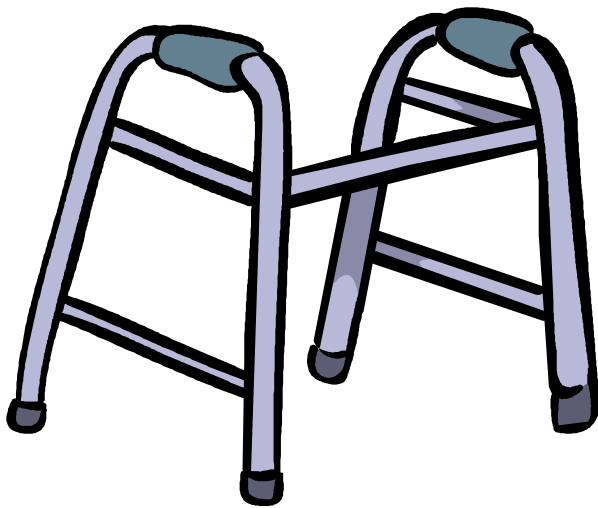




# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

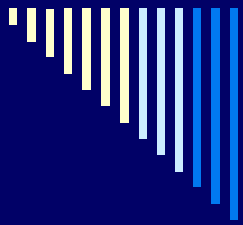
**Now that we know who is vulnerable or who has “special needs”...**

**We need to define:**



**“Special Needs”**



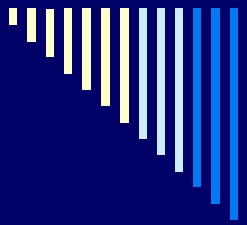


# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

From Wikipedia –

Special needs is a term used in clinical diagnostic and functional development to describe individuals who require assistance for disabilities such as medical, mental, or psychological conditions. For instance, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or the International Classification of Diseases 9th edition both give guidelines for clinical diagnosis. Autism, Down syndrome, developmental delays, blindness, and cystic fibrosis are examples of special needs.

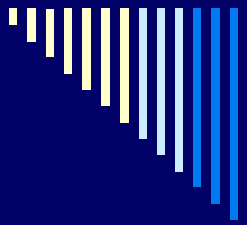
More narrowly, it is a legal term applying in foster care in the United States, derived from the language in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. It is a diagnosis used to classify children as needing “more” services than those children without special needs who are in the foster care system. It is a diagnosis based on behavior, childhood and family history, and is usually made by a health care professional.



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

The National Response Framework (NRF) published in the **Interim Emergency Management Planning Guide for Special Needs Populations**, Version 1.0 (August 15, 2008) their definition for “special needs” that provides a function-based approach reflecting the capabilities of the individual, not the diagnosis or medical condition.

**The definition of “special needs populations” appears in the NRF is as follow:**

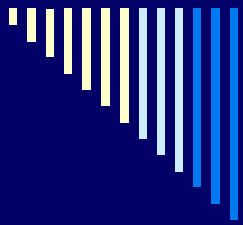


# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

Populations whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to:

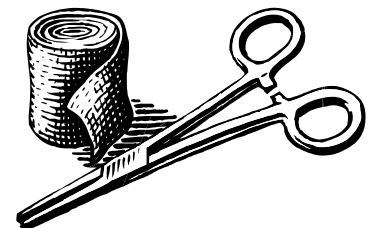
- Maintaining independence
- Communication
- Transportation
- Supervision
- Medical Care

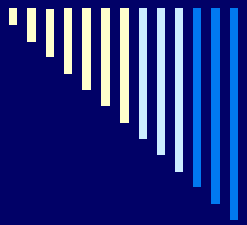




# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

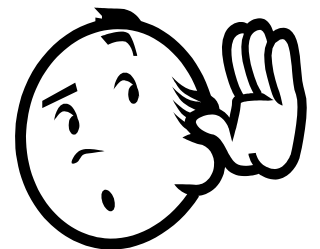
- **Maintaining independence** – Individuals requiring support to be independent in daily activities may lose this support during an emergency or a disaster. Such support may include consumable medical supplies (diapers, formula, bandages, ostomy supplies, etc.), durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, etc.), service animals, and/or attendants or caregivers. Supplying needed support to these individuals will enable them to maintain their pre-disaster level of independence.

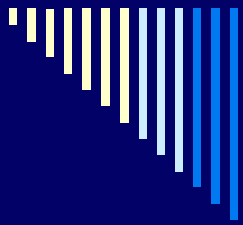




# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

- **Communication** – Individuals who have limitations that interfere the receipt of and response to information will need that information provided in methods they can understand and use. They may not be able to hear verbal announcements, see directional signs, or understand how to get assistance due to hearing, vision, speech, cognitive, or intellectual limitations, and/or limited English proficiency.

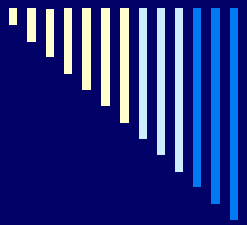




# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

- **Transportation** – Individuals who cannot drive or who do not have a vehicle may require transportation support for successful evacuation. This support may include accessible vehicles (e.g., lift-equipped or vehicles suitable for transporting individuals who use oxygen) or information about how and where to access mass transportation during an evacuation.

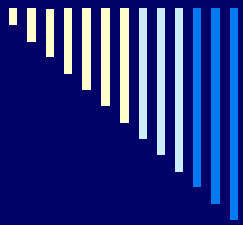




# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

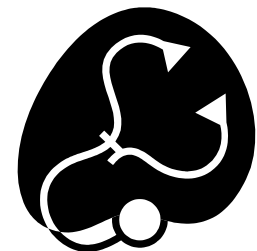
- **Supervision** – Before, during, and after an emergency individuals may lose the support of caregivers, family, or friends or may be unable to cope in a new environment (particularly if they have dementia, Alzheimer's or psychiatric conditions such as schizophrenia or intense anxiety). If separated from their caregivers, young children may be unable to identify themselves; and when in danger, they may lack the cognitive ability to assess the situation and react appropriately.



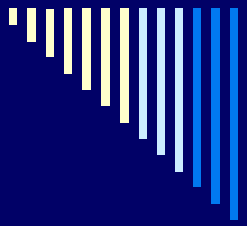


# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

- **Medical Care** – Individuals who are not self-sufficient or who do not have adequate support from caregivers, family, or friends may need assistance with: managing unstable, terminal or contagious conditions that require observation and ongoing treatment; managing intravenous therapy, tube feeding, and vital signs; receiving dialysis, oxygen, and suction administration; managing wounds; and operating power-dependent equipment to sustain life. These individuals require support of trained medical professionals.





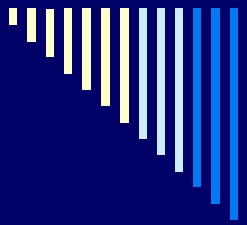


# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

## PLANNING FOR DISASTER:

- **Be Aware:**
- **Be Prepared:**
- **Have a Plan:**
- **Make a Kit:**



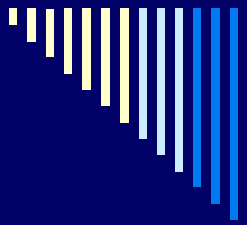


# **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations**

## **PLANNING FOR DISASTER:**

### **➤ Be Aware:**

- **Know in advance your weather forecasts**
- **Stay tuned to your local broadcasting stations**
- **Discuss conditions with family and know their location during times of known potentially threatening conditions.**

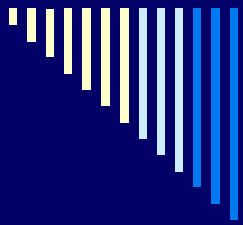


# **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations**

## **PLANNING FOR DISASTER:**

### **➤ Be Prepared:**

- **Discuss your plan with family members and neighbors**
- **Review your plan periodically for necessary updates**
- **Refresh your emergency kits**
- **Drill: practice your plan with household members**

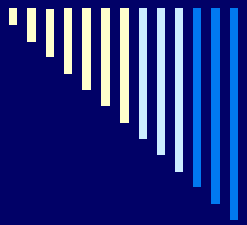


# **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations**

## **PLANNING FOR DISASTER:**

### **➤ Have a Plan:**

- **UTILITIES:** Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas and water
- **SHELTER:** Identify safe locations within your home
- **CONTACTS:** Written contact information for relatives, neighbors, utility companies, etc.
- **EVACUATE:** Predetermine evacuation routes. Choose several places
- **VEHICLES:** Have an ER kit with medication and at least ½ tank of fuel
- **MEDICATIONS:** Prepare a list of all medications



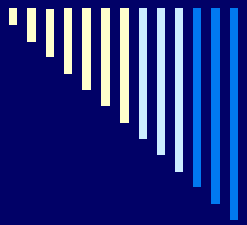
# **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations**

## **PLANNING FOR DISASTER:**

### **➤ Make a Kit:**

- **First aid kit and essential medications**
- **Canned food and can opener**
- **At least three gallons of water per person**
- **Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding**
- **Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries**
- **Waterproof matches, candles**
- **Special items for infants, elderly, disabilities**





# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and Vulnerable Populations

**REMEMBER**

**We're All  
In This  
Together . . .**

**THE  
END**

